CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for controlling an external storage device connected to a computer; the method comprising the steps of:

accepting an operation by a user and issuing an ejection request to the external storage device connected to the computer in accordance with specifications specifying that software control should be performed, including processing to stop access to the device, when ejection is performed; and

reading and encrypting a predetermined data file stored in the external storage device and storing the data file in the external storage device, if the ejection request has been issued.

2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is affixed in a machine readable program.

3.   A method for controlling an external storage device connected to a computer; the method comprising the steps of:

detecting that the external storage device is connected to the computer and checking whether or not an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device; and

if an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device, reading the encrypted data file, decrypting the encrypted data file using a passphrase preset and held by predetermined storage means, and storing the decrypted data file in the external storage device.

4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the method is affixed in a machine readable program

5.   A program for controlling a computer to provide encryption processing for a data file stored in an external storage device connected to the computer; the program causing the computer to function as:

acceptance means for accepting an ejection request to the external storage device connected to the computer in accordance with specifications specifying that software control should be performed, including processing to stop access to the device, when ejection is performed; and

encryption means for encrypting a predetermined data file stored in the external storage device if the ejection request has been accepted by the acceptance means.

6.   The program according to Claim 5, further causing the computer to function as decryption means for detecting that the external storage device is connected to the computer and decrypting the encrypted data file stored in the external storage device.

7.   The program according to Claim 5, further causing the computer to function as passphrase managing means for managing a passphrase used for encryption by the encryption means and decryption by the decryption means.

8.   The method according to claim 5, wherein the method is affixed in a machine readable program.

9.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the method is affixed in a machine readable program.

10.   A program for controlling a computer to provide encryption processing for a data file stored in an external storage device connected to the computer; the program causing the computer to execute the processes of:

detecting that the external storage device is connected to the computer and checking whether or not an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device; and

if an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device, reading the encrypted data file, decrypting the encrypted data file using a passphrase preset and held by predetermined storage means, and storing the decrypted data file in the external storage device.

11.   The program according to claim 10, wherein said program is resident on a computer.

12.   The program according to claim 10, wherein said program is an application reasident on
        a server.